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County Life

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JANUARY 23, 2025

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Making music
Get inspired at this year's Winter Folk Camp on pg. 4

Blast from the past
Skate down memory lane on pg. 5

The Silver Stage
Audition for this year's summer plays on pg. 7

Emmett Legge takes a moment to feed a small chickadee on a cold day. /photo submitted by Randy Moratz

Writing on the Senior Side

I need more time. I have plans.

GAIL STELTER
County Life Contributor

Oh, the weather outside is frightful ... Okay, not frightful, but cold, very cold, and I am hibernating.

Lately, we have been driving to doctors' appointments in Peterborough, and as many of you know, it ends up being a day trip. I suppose Swiss Chalet is partly responsible. Last week, on one of those trips, big snowflakes created a Star Wars blizzard snow squall.

Peter said, " Do you want me to stop the car so you can get out and stick out your tongue?"

Sometimes, my *Senior Side* writings come back to tease me. We have all heard the expression, be careful what you wish for, so today, I will be careful what I write. I will still go for that winter walk and stick out my tongue, but not in a blizzard.

I will be careful when writing about seniors and winter sadness. I think I wrote about this last year, but I don't quite remember, and you probably didn't read it anyway. Oops, that sounds a little negative and "poor me". Forget that. I have decided that if one person reads my writing, I am a writer. I write because I love writing. I write *On the Senior Side* to brighten our days, recall our lives lived and share my stories, which often coincide with your stories. We are kindred spirits. We are the Baby Boomers. We are fiercely in love with our country and detest modern-day dictators. We want to enjoy to the max the time we have left. My motto for writing and even my life in 2025 is I need more time. I have plans.

This winter thing is getting in my way, so I need to conquer it. Hibernating almost works. Writing is a solitary endeavour, and while this usually gregarious and outgoing old woman misses people connections, she is fine with her new life choice, at least for the winter months. I got a new jigsaw puzzle. I watch the Leafs and football playoffs. I read and I rest a lot. I write.

Peter, however, has other plans for me: to get me out for a walk every day and to have me start and stay on my heart-healthy diet. He has good intentions, so I will meet him more than halfway. No walking outside in the cold. My current health issues mean I can't breathe in the cold, and it is exhausting. So now, I go with him to shop at grocery and other stores where I walk up and down the aisles. I don't like shopping and I don't want to leave my warm house but I do like that I might see someone I know, and of course, I will talk to whoever is in front or behind me in the checkout line. I also talk to people in the elevator at the hospital, sitting beside me in the doctor's office, and any nurses or receptionists who seem welcoming. I like people. Here I am talking with you so you are good winter therapy too. Thank you.

Heart healthy diet. I don't like diets. I am tired of diets. I always end up feeling like a failure, and that can›t be a good thing, especially in my winter doldrums. It is the one facet of my life that reminds me of just how imperfectly human I am. However, mindful that "I need more time. I have plans", I agreed. Wish me luck; no, not luck, determination and perseverance. Luck has nothing to do with it. If it is to be, it is up to me. (Amazing the power of these two-letter words when put together in that sentence.) The first step is to remove most temptations and pace myself on a few others. I tried to eat all the Scottish shortbread cookies that stared at me from their box on the cupboard shelf. I tried to eat the other leftover Christmas foods before starting this heart-healthy diet. What do you mean that was not a smart idea? I know that. So now, it's one cookie, once a day, until they are gone, and I will give away the rest of the stuff…maybe not the fudge. I try to eat slowly and savour each cookie. That isn't working, or shall I say, it is a work in progress.

Combining this heart-healthy diet with what "the book" says about diet and AFib means no cheese, no salt, no red meat, no caffeine….no…no…no. I finally yelled at Peter, "Stop reading the book!" Poor Peter, I know he is doing his best for me, and that is no easy task. Today, we are going to buy the ingredients for cabbage soup ... yuk.

I set a goal of losing fifteen pounds, and then I want fish and chips. I mean, I am seventy-five years old, and I will do this ... my way. I will set new goals after the first one is a success as I need to lose many more pounds, but a small goal and a reward are my self-talk strategies. The scariest part is telling all of you. You are now my accountability group. I am hoping that I can give you monthly updates on this (NOT) fun winter pastime. So far, down three.

Am I sad about recent health issues and exercise and heart-healthy diets? No, but sometimes yes. It is a lot at any time of the year, but more so in winter. Do you find that you feel sad in winter? I think defining our plans for this time of year may help. I always know that doing something new or challenging can make a difference. (I've got that covered this year.) I always know that listening to our music, singing our songs with joyful abandon, dancing to the *Stroll*, the *Twist*, the *Mashed Potato* and the *Pony*, and being with family and friends are anecdotes that work. You need more time. Make your plans. Have a great winter.

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CountyLife
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Foodland *
Godfather's Pizza *
Minden Valumart *
Peavey Industries *
Rexall *
Shoppers Drug Mart Haliburton *
Todd's Independent *

All inserts are to selected distribution areas.

For information on how your flyer can be inserted each week in County Life please contact Melissa Armstrong at **613-332-2002** or **melissa@haliburtonpress.com**

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Sorry

DEBORAH REED

County Life Contributor

I'm a Canadian. I'm both proud and sensitive. If my country ever chose just one graphic T-shirt, my personal design would be pretty similar. Whatever we show, it's more a cardigan of shared ownership than one full metal jacket. Either by attrition or by choice, we all become the sum of who we were, where we are, and what we wish to be. We are each other. In coats of many colours. Not melting-pot uniform, but multicultural embroidered hand-me-downs. Collected voices. All standouts.

Colours is spelled with a u. Or not. U rhymes with you. It's up to U how to be Canadian. You have choices. Someone might bark if you spell color the American way, but that's OK, eh? We're allowed to implement the better freedoms of democracy. Healthy democracies need healthy leaders, and ours have usually tried their darnedest to consider U.

You. A unique standout citizen. Just don't be a mean citizen. A selfish one. It's a big country, so use the big picture. Work hard. Say something. You're entitled to. And if saying it brings you opposition, say it again. Be peaceable, not passive-aggressive.

Canada and I could be twins. Like its stereotype, I apologize a lot, get a little quiet, emotional. I'm nervous around bullies, and fear rejection. I hate being mocked, but I can laugh at myself. I trust great leadership and clean skies. I grieve historical shame. I'm still evolving. I'm also the texture of diversity, fuelled by challenge, change and vision, and again, by this amazing privilege to speak feelings. Politely. Consciously. Hopefully.

Loyally. Pride of nation feels different up here. Prime Minister Lester B. Pearson said, upon raising our new ensign on Parliament Hill on Jan. 28, 1965: "May the land over which this new flag flies remain united in freedom and justice … sensitive, tolerant and compassionate towards all."

Canada is mostly about compassion and big picture. World still comes first. Humanitarianism. Diplomacy. Rights and freedoms. Our flag communicates these through a single red leaf, symbol itself of lifeblood and nature. Our anthem sings it, the north yet wild and free. Hand doesn't have to be over Canadian heart. It's Mother Earth with the bigger heartbeat, that patient universal turtle with all of us on her back. Nature herself sustains earth, offering food, fuel and water, plus her will to balance and persist. It's exactly Canadian nature to want to preserve these. It's our nature which we offer to the world.

And like me, Canada holds remorse for past mistakes. Awareness and reparations continue to unfold, constantly tweaking us both. As with all maturity, precepts of history get re-examined all the time.

Not everyone admires Canada. Or admires me! As long as we both continue to reflect and self-adjust, we can almost guarantee our good name. This land still sings as it once did for those who first lived here, and for those who came later to be here too.

Our one collective evolving hopeful hardworking song? It's called O CANADA!

Student volunteers needed at MHCC

The Minden Hills Cultural Centre is excited to announce a Call for Volunteers to support a variety of engaging community events this winter. We are looking for enthusiastic individuals, including students, to prepare for and support our events and activities.

This winter, volunteers will have the opportunity to support two PA Day programs on Friday, Jan. 31 and Feb.28, and the Family Day Open House on Monday, Feb. 17. They will also assist with the March Break Drop-in Programs and Camp Activities.

The Museum & Heritage Village and Nature's Place will kick off their seasonal opening on Saturday, May 17, 2025 with engaging activities and opportunities for dedicated volunteers to help ensure a memorable experience for all.

Students who are looking to earn community hours and gain valuable work experience are encouraged to apply.

If you are interested in volunteering, please send an e-mail to culturalcentre@mindenhills.ca and include your full name, your contact information (phone number and e-mail address), your availability and your interest.

If you are a student volunteer under 18 years old, please also include your parent or guardian's full name and their contact information in your e-mail.

Visit our township›s social media for more information: www.facebook.com/Township.Minden.Hills.

Submitted

Community Events

Send your event listing to classifieds@haliburtonpress.com

Minden Ice Races Schedule 2025
When: Jan 25-26, Feb 1-2, Feb. 8-9, Feb. 15-16, Feb. 22-23, and Mar. 1-2
Where: Minden Fairgrounds
The Minden Ice Races have announced their schedule for their 2025 season. The ice races will be located at the Minden Fairgrounds. Spectator admission is free. Races begin at 9 a.m. on Saturdays and 11 a.m. on Sundays.

Minden & District Horticultural Society Pot Luck Luncheon
When: Saturday, Feb. 1 at noon
Where: Our Lady of Fatima church, 7 Bobcaygeon Road, Minden.
Speaker: Mary Hamilton "Making Valentine's Day Cards Using Flower Pounding". Bring your own plate, cutlery and mug as well as a dish for the pot luck. New members welcome!

Recurring events

TOPS: Take Off Pounds Sensibly
When: Monday mornings 9:30 to 11 a.m.
Where: Haliburton Legion Branch 129, upper level
Admission: Yearly membership of $59
A non-profit/commercial network of weight-loss support groups, offers programs for healthy living and weight management.

Bridge for Seniors
When: Mondays at 1 p.m.
Where: Haliburton Legion - Schofield Room
All welcome

Haliburton Legion Walking Group
When: Mondays at 9 to 10 a.m.
Where: Haliburton Legion - Remembrance Hall
A safe walking environment. Lead by an Occupational therapist.

Free Balanced Fitness and Active Social Senior Classes
When: Every second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 10 to 11 a.m.
Where: Haliburton Legion Remembrance Hall
All seniors are welcome. Group led by Registered Recreation Therapist

Bid Euchre
When: Wednesdays at 1 p.m.
Where: Haliburton Legion - Remembrance Hall
All welcome!

Seniors Chair Exercises
When: Thursdays at 1 p.m.
Where: St. George's Anglican Church, 617 Mountain Street
Please join us for safe and gentle exercises for seniors to help with balance, strength and flexibility. Free to join.

Cards/Euchre/Cribbage
When: Thursdays at 2:30 p.m.
Where: St. George's Church
617 Mountain Street
Lakeside Church Service
When: Sunday at 9 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.
Where: 9 Park Street, Haliburton.
Whoever you are, wherever you've been, you are welcome here.

Weekly Meat Rolls
When: Every Saturday, 3 p.m.
Where: Coboconk Legion, Hwy 48 and 35
Join us for our weekly meat draw. Five spins for $10. First four rounds are for highest and lowest score with two winners per round. Last round is for a prepare-it-yourself dinner for two. Additional spins for this round are available for $2 each. Call 705-454-8127 or email info@coboconklegion.ca for more information.

Winter folk camp supports development of local musicians

Winter Folk Camp is just around the corner. This popular music event, now in its 14th year, sold out in four days after registration opened. Eighty people will gather on the shores of Koshlong Lake at YMCA Camp Wanakita on Feb. 28 until March 3 for three days of music workshops, concerts, song circles, and jam sessions.

The Winter Folk Camp draws participants from all across southern Ontario. It is also an opportunity for local musicians to hone their music skills and knowledge, and connect and play with other musicians. This year, seventeen local folk will experience this weekend of music magic. Every year the Folk Society sponsors an adult and a youth to attend the Winter Folk Camp free of charge. Anna Morgan and youth candidate, Kip Kelly are the successful local applicants.

Anna Morgan has been involved with music on and off since the age of 10. She plays guitar and piano and sings. She is currently taking piano lessons with the hopes of teaching one day soon. She is a mom of 4. About the Camp she says "I hope to connect with like-minded people who love music, to learn new skills in the areas of song writing, and playing with others. I believe this will be a valuable experience for me as I step out of my living and comfort zone and explore other musical genres and expressions."

Ken Whiteley, right, teaches the blues to participants enrolled during a past Winter Folk Camp, an initiative of the Haliburton County Folk Society. The annual weekend long event invites musical enthusiasts to the Highlands for instrumental classes and concerts put on by professional folk musicians. /FILE

Kip Kelly is 14 and in Grade 8. He started taking music classes when he was three years old, and continued to play piano with Lauren McInnes until he was 11 years old. He then switched to playing electric guitar and has been taking guitar lessons with Nick Russell for three years. He has also enjoyed singing in the youth ensemble led by Beth Kipping for three years. Kip states "Making music is fun. I am excited. Participating in the WFC will be a unique opportunity to make music with other musicians - something I am rarely able to do otherwise"

Anna and Kip will be in good hands in the workshop they choose to participate in. The Camp prides itself on hiring the best music instructors and performers. This year's roster includes Coco Love Alcorn leading the workshop called Joyful Singing with Coco; Cara Luft (of The Small Glories) - School of Rock for Folkies; Rob Lutes - The Music of Tin Pan Alley; Caroline Brooks (of the Good Lovelies) - Songwriting; Katherine Wheatley – Join a Band; and Thom Lambert - Guitar for Singers and Songwriters. Thom Lambert is the second local musician to teach at Winter Folk Camp; Nick Russell was an instructor in 2023 and 2024. Their participation is testament to the state of performing arts in the Haliburton Highlands that boasts a rich community and tradition of presenting and performing music.

Local music fans can experience Winter Folk Camp by attending one of the evening concerts. On Saturday, March 1, Cara Luft, Katherine Wheatley and Thom Lambert will be performing. Rob Lutes, Caroline Brooks and Coco Love Alcorn will grace the stage on Sunday, March 2. There is something incredible that happens at these concerts. The Camp participants are well into their camp experience - high on music, so to speak, and when evening concert goers arrive to listen, they are joining a very engaged audience. The results are electric; it will be an unforgettable concert experience. More information and a limited number tickets will be available soon at www.haliburtonfolk.com

Winter Folk Camp is presented by the Haliburton County Folk Society, a part of the Haliburton County Community Cooperative. For more information about the Coop see www.haliburtoncooperative.on.ca.

Submitted

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Skating through the past

KATE BUTLER

County Life Contributor

In the 1960s, the *Echo* regularly featured reminiscences written by Marjorie Barrett, who had grown up in Haliburton in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Born Marjorie Clarke in 1892, she was the daughter of local businessman Harry Clarke and his wife, Fanny Bemister. While she moved to Port Dover as an adult, Marjorie's ties to Haliburton remained strong, partly because her sister, Dorothy, continued to live in the village, while her youngest sister, Phyllis, settled nearby in Kinmount. Marjorie's columns in the *Echo* were written under the pen name of "Ging" and appeared under the title of *This I Remember*. Many feature her own personal recollections, while others draw on stories from her family and others she knew in the community growing up. One of my favourite things about these columns is that they retain Marjorie's child's-eye view of life in the Highlands and that they reflect what was important and interesting to her in those early years, while also providing information about newsworthy items in the community in a broader sense. Recently, I was looking at some of her columns which touch on winter amusements, and I thought that you might enjoy hearing about them too.

/FILE

Today, we might take it for granted that the Haliburton Highlands are a community with a strong connection to skating, and, of course, hockey. Our local arenas seem to be bustling every day and every evening, but what about earlier eras? In her column from May 13th, 1965, Marjorie shares that in her childhood, skates were seen as a winter luxury, while a sleigh was considered a winter necessity. Of course, this makes sense as a sleigh was transportation, particularly in the decades before automobiles became common on the streets of the County. Marjorie does confirm, however, that anyone who wanted to skate seemed to eventually get the opportunity. She relates the adventures of learning how to skate – there were no formal lessons, so it was mostly just a system of trial and error. Children would often make their own skate aids by bringing chairs down to the lake that they could lean on as they learned to balance.

Those early rinks required teamwork in terms of their construction and maintenance, as a great deal of energy was required to clear the snow from a portion of the lake and keep it clear. Of course, a covered rink would make things easier, but there's a bit of a dramatic story there. The first covered rink in Haliburton, located near the school on Victoria Street, was built in 1902, and it was, not surprisingly, popular with the local children. In 1904, however, the roof fell in due to a heavy snow load. Luckily no one was injured! The next covered rink appeared a couple of years later, overseen by Charles Thayer. Marjorie's column recalls that it was flooded regularly with water from the river and that music for skating was provided by an old gramophone. In addition to maintaining the rink, Charles Thayer helped beginner skaters, which hopefully meant that fewer chairs had to make their way onto the ice! That rink was a well-loved and well-used public space for two decades before the Haliburton arena eventually moved to Mountain Street, where it's still located today. So, if you're headed out on the ice (indoors or out) this winter, I hope you'll give some thought to those early skaters and their adventures and a thank you to Ging for giving us an extra glimpse into our community's history.

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The bucket

AT NEARLY a year old, my son's world has suddenly opened up to the world of play.

Gone are the days of shaking a rattle in his face being met with ambivalent expression.

Now, he's too sophisticated to be bothered with menial things.

EMILY STONEHOUSE
County Life Editor

He craves imagination.

And while every milestone has somehow seemed more significant than the last (my 30,000 photos and videos on my iPhone can confirm this. I have 32 videos of the first time he giggled and can't bring myself to delete a single one,) his desire to create magic and play is one of my favourites.

Naturally, seeing that he is taken with creating characters and charades, I unboxed the many toys we were graciously gifted at our baby shower or beyond. We are part of a great community that has a number of parent-centric groups, where toys seem to trickle down the line while interest around them ebbs and flows.

Bright red fire trucks, detailed little dolls, rainbow building blocks that can stack higher than he can stand.

I placed them all around his little figure, in a semi-circle, curious to see what toy he would be drawn to.

He sat quietly. He took them all in. His eyes shifted while he processed his surroundings.

And then, he reached for an empty bucket that had been discarded near the recycling bin.

His toy of choice.

And it's still the crown jewel of our toy collection, it's permanent place sitting atop his wooden shelf; it's bright yellow yogurt label a jarring contrast to our woodland toys and illustrated books.

I tried to redirect him towards other areas of interest. Oh, maybe I'll flash the siren on the little ambulance. Perhaps I can turn the volume up on the mini player piano.

But no, he wants the bucket.

And while I realize that he's still a baby, and that the interest in the other toys will likely come with time, I found I needed to step back.

Because as bright and colourful and flashy as those other toys are, they don't offer that same world of imagination.

To him, it's not just a bucket. It's a hat, it's a drum, it's a sippy cup.

It's a carrier for his soft stuffy bunny, a rattle for blocks, a cover when playing peekaboo.

It echoes his little voice, and bends under his curious fingers.

There's a whole world in that little bucket.

He has a lifetime ahead of him to find his interests, to explore his surroundings, to play, to believe, to dream.

But right now, he has his bucket. And that's all he really needs.

I remember reading that parents are so quick to jump, to try to create that world of whimsy for our kids. For example, if we see our child tapping a stick along the sidewalk, what would we naturally do? "Oh that stick looks like a sword!" or "oh I bet you could make music with that!"

But what if we just stayed silent? What if we let them come up with the game, with the vision, with the thought. There is nothing wrong with joining in their play, but perhaps we need to let them take the lead when we can. So much of life is squeezed through the tube of perfection and poise. There has to be a little room for buckets, and the world they can create.

It's not about how bright and colourful and flashy things are, sometimes the greatest gift is an offering of simplicity, of imagination, of that little thing that's right in front of you.

Because no matter what age you are, we all crave imagination, and the beauty of 'what if?'

Top 10 things your dog is thinking when it gets you up at 5 a.m.

If you own a dog, you probably don't need an alarm clock.

My own pup wakes me up at 5 a.m. each morning, which begs the question why can't breeder breed the "not a morning person" trait into them?

It's not really as bad as it sounds — aside from the whining and the slobber, I mean. But enough about my behaviour. Let's talk about dogs.

STEVE GALEA
Humour Columnist

Have you ever wondered what your dog is thinking when he or she wakes you up? Here are my top 10 guesses.

1. Hey, remember that snack that disappeared last night? Well, I think it's about to reappear.
2. Sunrise is funrise!
3. Sorry, but there's just no way I'm getting my other humans up.
4. Get dressed quick! I'm pretty sure I heard a squirrel out there!
5. Trust me, you can always nap during work hours.
6. If you can't wake your best friend at 5 am, who can you wake?
7. You know, you're kind of cute when you growl!
8. This belly isn't going to rub itself.
9. Hey, if we get up now, there's still time to run around on a cold and dark winter morning.
10. Stop whining, you've had 42 hours sleep in dog time…

Berries

Red berries sheathed in ice, dangling like tiny globes from their tree,
its branches sprouting a second skin of Snow, morning light glazing the tree, as Sun beams down from a blaze of blue Sky,
the red berries, glowing like ornaments as I meander over towards the tree, growing on somebody's front lawn,
struck by its beauty, unaware, at the moment, that I'm trespassing, sullying strangers' Snow,
my boots clomping towards the tree from the road, clouds of my Breath painting Air, that's so cold, my fingers freeze like twigs,
when I peel off my mitten to graze one of the berries dangling from a lower branch,
how cool and smooth its skin of glass feels, the berry sealed inside,
my fingers sliding over berry after berry, the motion, feeling sacred, somehow, standing quiet and still in the Snow,
thinking out of the blue of a great-auntie who used to pray on a rosary she held in her palm,
massaging every bead between her fingers before moving on to the next one,
my child's eyes riveted as I stood beside her, peering down at her bratwurst fingers, kneading the beads,
wondering what words she was muttering under her Breath, knowing I had to remain still and couldn't fidget,
'till she finished whispering all her words, and the beads lay in a heap in her hand.
I stand, a trespasser, on somebody's front lawn, still as their tree, glistening with berries,
one of them dropping into my palm, how fragile they are, maybe my fingers tugged too hard,
staring down at the berry nestled in my palm, its sheathe of ice melting into my skin,
the red berry, puckered, like my great-auntie's lips, expecting a kiss,
sometimes I miss my auntie Vera, whose name means Faith in the language we spoke together when I was small,
placing the rosary beads in my palm, sometimes, but I never knew what to say,
listening to trees sway in the Wind, or watching sunbeams pierce clusters of clouds,
the silence so loud, it spoke to me more than the beads, about the mystery of things that I don't know,
and if I listened long enough, the silence spoke back,
the slants of sunlight, stroking me or Snow,
a gust of Wind rippling through the tree, the sound of tinkling, as tiny icicles break off their branches, falling onto the Snow,
the berries, holding their own, clinging to their twigs, only a few dropping to the ground, like droplets of blood, sullying Snow,
as I listen to the tinkling sprinkling Air, like a distant prayer, growing louder as the Wind passes through the tree,
the berries, gleaming in the sunlight like tiny glass globes, how fragile, the world grows, I think,
as I lift my eyes up towards morning Sky, placing my faith in all that blue, and the mystery of things that I don't know,
Sun stroking the skin of Snow, as my Breath slows, inhaling the pureness of its light,
praying to the berry I cradle in my palm, that those who are bestowed newfound power and might,
will handle the world with thoughtfulness and care,
so it doesn't break and smash into smithereens,
the earth, more fragile than it's ever been.

Sylvie Kalenda

Wanted: actors for HSF's silver season

EMILY STONEHOUSE

County Life Editor

Highlands Summer Festival's production of *4000 Miles* dazzled crowds in 2023. The Highlands Summer Festival is actively looking for interested cast members to audition for the coming season. /FILE

Sometimes a new year is an opportunity to get outside your comfort zone, or to reconnect with something that once brought you joy.

With the Highlands Summer Festival (HSF) recently announcing their lineup for their 25th season, organizers are actively looking for interested individuals to audition for this summer's shows.

"Anyone can audition," said board member Melissa Stephens, who is organizing this year's audition process. "Every season we have many new and exciting surprises."

There are three shows lined up for this summer: *Urinetown, the Musical, Salt-Water Moon,* and *Drinking Habits.* The shows offer a variety of roles, themes, and styles, which Stephens is looking forward to exploring with those auditioning. "We are excited about the audition process," she said, "to reconnect with former cast members and meet potential new cast members."

The initial audition is approximately ten minutes long, and will start with a photo being snapped to help directors remember when choosing cast members. Stephens encouraged everyone auditioning to have the audition package filled out in advance, which can be found on the Highland Summer Festival website.

There will be three directors present at each audition. If someone is trying out for a musical role, they will be asked to sing a few verses of musical theatre repertoire. Stephens noted that if someone is intending to sing, they can bring sheet music, and she will accompany them on piano.

Following the song, auditioners will be asked to read a monologue, which should span approximately two to three minutes in length. "Additionally, directors may give you another monologue to take away and study for ten to fifteen minutes, and then you will return and read it for them," shared Stephens.

All roles the HSF is casting this season are available in the audition package on the website. The majority of rehearsals occur on weekends in order to accommodate those who work through the week. Stephens noted that the time commitment for rehearsals is approximately 100 to 120 hours in total.

"As well as cast members, we are always on the lookout for stage managers and behind the scenes volunteers," said Stephens. "Visit the HSF website to acquaint yourself with all of the volunteer opportunities and who to contact."

Information can be found at www.highlandssummerfestival.on.ca.

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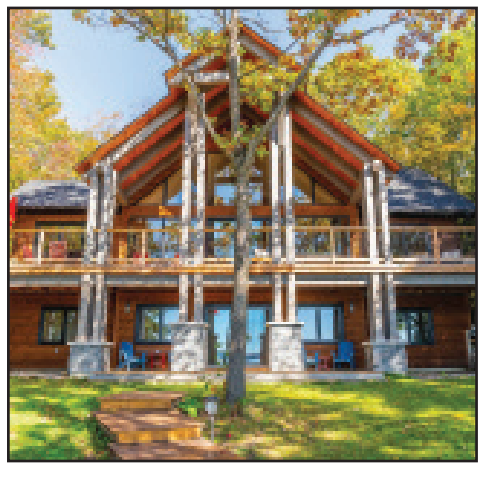

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Gray Jay by Randy Moratz

Cranes by Lou Weber

Downy Woodpecker by Jill Moulton

Deer by Tammy Nash

Pine Marten by Tammy Nash

Legion Events

Branch 441 Kinmount

Monday: Bid euchre 1 p.m.
Cornhole 7 p.m. (upstairs)
Ladies darts 7:30 p.m. (downstairs)
Tuesday: Coffee and chat 9 to 10:30 a.m.
Wednesday: Coffee and chat 9 to 10:30 a.m. Mixed darts 7:30 p.m. Canteen opens at 6 p.m.
Thursday: General meeting (3rd week) Members only 7:30 p.m.
Friday: Chair yoga 10 a.m. Bingo, doors open at 5 p.m. Supper special every week. Canteen opens at 4 p.m.
Saturday: Meat draw 5 p.m. Canteen opens at 3 p.m.
Sunday: Ladies Auxiliary meeting (members only) third Sunday every month at 2 p.m.
We welcome everyone to our events and we look forward to seeing you.

Branch 129 Haliburton

Mondays: Bridge 1 p.m. Schofield Rm. Youth darts 6:30 to 8 p.m. Clubroom 10 to 18 years of age. All are welcome, no experience necessary
Tuesdays: League darts 7 p.m.
Wednesdays: Bid Euchre 1 p.m. start – Main Hall. Bingo doors open at 6 p.m. Bingo starts at 7 p.m. First Wed of each month - $1000 jackpot, rest will be a $500 jackpot.
Follow Facebook.com/Branch129 Bingo for the most up-to-date information
Thursdays: General Meeting third Thursday of the month, 6:30 p.m. All members urged to attend.
Ladies Auxiliary last Thursday of the month at 1 p.m.
Fridays: Five meat draw, five prizes each draw, first draw 4:30 p.m., last draw 6:30 p.m. Tickets $2 per draw. Paul Sisson, MC. Friday fun darts from 4:30 p.m. and onwards. 50/50 Draw 5:40 p.m.
Whether you're planning a function for 10 or 200, call Cheryl Waller at 905-447-7741, email haliburtonlegionrentals@gmail.com or visit haliburtonlegion.com. Everyone is welcome!
Club room hours: Mon. 3 to 6 p.m., Tues. 3 to 9 p.m., Wed/Thurs. 3 to 6 p.m. Fri. 3 to 7 p.m.

Branch 636 Minden

Lunch - Monday to Friday
Monday: Rug Hookers every second week. Bid Euchre 1 to 3 p.m.
Tuesday: Food 5 p.m. Canoe FM Bingo 6 p.m.
Thursday: Cribbage 1 to 3 p.m., Darts 7 to 9 p.m. and Euchre 7 to 9 p.m.
Every other Friday: Karaoke 8 to 11 p.m.
Friday Fish & Chips, Wings. Lunch 11a.m. to 2 p.m. and Dinner 4 to 7 p.m.
Saturday All Day Breakfast 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. with three Meat draws at 11 a.m.
Call ahead any day for take-out: 705-286-4541. Schedules are subject to change without notice. Check our Facebook page Minden Legion Branch 636 for more info.

Branch 624 Wilberforce

Hours - Sunday: Special Events Only, Monday: 7 to 10 p.m., Tuesday: Closed, Wednesday: 2 to 6 p.m., Thursday: 2 to 10 p.m., Friday: 2 to 11 p.m., Saturday: 2 to 9 p.m.
Thursday, Jan. 23, 30 - Cornhole, $5/player, 7 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 31 - Wings and Jam, $15/lb, 5 to 8 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 25 - Meat Draw, 3 p.m.
Monday, Jan. 27 - Darts, $5/player, 7 p.m.
Wednesday, Jan. 22, 29 - Darts, $4/player, 2 p.m.
Friday, Jan 24. -Spaghetti Dinner, 5 to 8 p.m., $15
Saturday Jan 25.
Pat and Phyllis Memorial Ice Fishing Derby. Weigh in is at 3 p.m. Registration is $20. Call the Legion for more info 705-448-2221

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Please ensure images are high resolution - 200 dpi, 10 inches at its longest edge.

White Breasted Nutchatch by Jill Moulton

Deer collision safety reminder

Haliburton Highlands OPP is urging everyone to slow down and stay vigilant when you see deer crossing signs. Recent traffic analysis reveals a concerning rise in motor vehicle collisions (MVCs) involving animals, with 6066 reported in Central Region (CR) over the past three years. Deer-related collisions account for a staggering 82.5 per cent of these incidents.

From 2019-2023, the following areas have been identified as hot spots for deer-related collisions:

- County Road 21 (Minden to Haliburton)
- Hwy 35 (121 to 118)
- Hwy 35 (Deep Bay Rd to Minden)
- Hwy 118 (35 to Eagle Lake Rd)
- Hwy 118 (Haliburton to Glamorgan Rd)

Reminder: Stay alert, especially during dawn and dusk when deer are most active.

Together, we can keep our roads safer for everyone!

Submitted

R.I.D.E. Check leads to impaired driving charge

Members of the Haliburton Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) has charged a Minden resident with an impaired operation related offence as the result of a R.I.D.E. program.

On January 9, 2025, at approximately 11:59 a.m., Haliburton OPP officers were conducting a R.I.D.E. (Reduce Impaired Driving Everywhere) spot check in the area of Water Street in the Township of Minden Hills. A vehicle entered the area and was met by the officers. After a brief conversation, officers were quickly led to an impaired driving investigation.

As a result of the investigation, a 63-year-old resident of Minden was charged with the following offence:

Operation while impaired - blood concentration (80 plus)

The accused has been released from custody and is scheduled to appear before the Ontario Court of Justice in Minden at a later date. Until then the accused's driver's licence is suspended for 90 days, and the vehicle was impounded for a period of seven days.

Members of the Haliburton OPP are committed to public safety, delivering proactive and innovative policing in partnership with our communities. Officers value your contribution to building safe communities. If you suspect someone is driving while under the influence of drugs or alcohol call 9-1-1. If you have information about suspected unlawful activity, please contact the OPP at 1-888-310-1122 or Crime Stoppers to remain anonymous at 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS) or www.khcrimestoppers.com.

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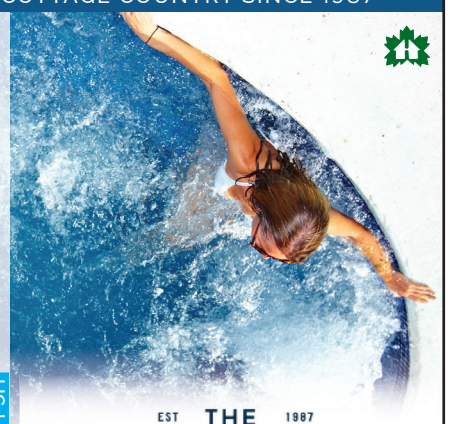

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Tuesday, January 17, 2012

Adopted

Haliburton Forest provides home for unusual pet

10

Victory

Red Hawks recapture title as St. Peter's Saints Classic A champions

26

Clowning around

There was no shortage of fancy footwork during Circus Terrifico at the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion on Jan. 15. More on page 22. **Chad Ingram** Staff

County scours budget for savings

Chad Ingram
Staff reporter

It's clear that county councillors want to keep the 2012 Haliburton County budget as austere as possible.

Councillors were discussing department draft budgets during a series of committee meetings on Jan. 11.

Minden Hills Reeve Barb Reid wanted to know, if necessary, what kind of cuts could be made in the roads department budget.

The roads department has the largest budget of any county department.

"County council is in the process of rooting through the draft budgets of all the departments [and the whole picture] is not looking very positive, in my opinion," Reid said during the roads committee meeting. "It may be that we need to find more places to cut and I just want to get the committee's thoughts on the whole notion of road construction versus road maintenance. I understand our operating philosophy and I think it's a good one, but I'm wondering how sustainable that is, given the size of our county, the geographic breadth of the county and the fact the Liberal government did make a commitment to have a 10-year infrastructure plan."

That plan has yet to be announced.

"Personally, I think the priority should be on maintenance and not on construction," said Reid, who appreciated roads superintendent Doug Ray had already reduced his draft budget, but was adamant the county needed a contingency plan. "We may have to live with roads that are not as good as we want them."

The draft roads budget includes two major construc-

see WE page 16

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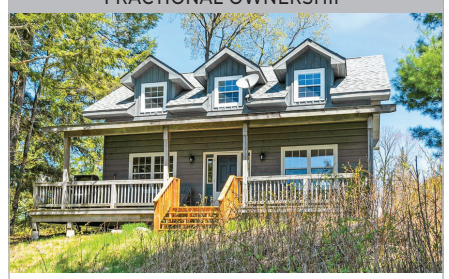

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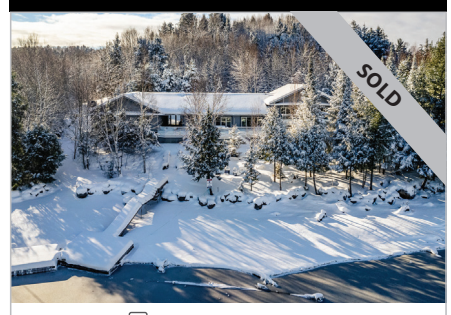

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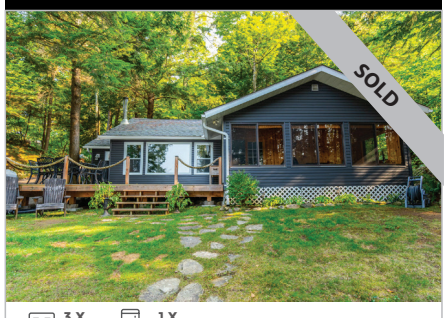
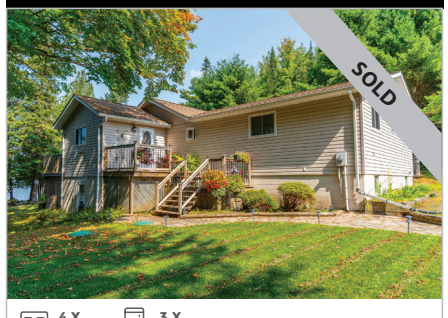


3 X BED 1 X BATH

HALIBURTON LAKE $1,250,000



4 X BED 3 X BATH

EAGLE LAKE $925,000

3 X BED 2 X BATH

BAUMGARTNER REALTY GROUP B|R

VACANT LAND FOR SALE

Haliburton Lake Road
MLS X10437518
$250,000
14.53 Acres

Bethel Road
MLS X10899794
$191,000
24.65 Acres

Basshaunt Lake Road
MLS X10437016
$109,000
2.19 Acres

Wenona Lake Road
MLS X10899857
$109,000
0.42 Acres

SOLD **Ross Lake Road**
MLS X11899959
$68,800
2.3 Acres

FEATURED LISTING

Saturday, January 26th 12:00 pm - 2:00 pm

1323 Basshaunt Lake Road

$699,900

Eagle Lake

1127 sq. ft

2.34 Acres

Linda Baumgartner - Broker of Record | Owner
(705) 457.3461
contact@baumgartnerrealty.ca
www.baumgartnerrealty.ca

RE/MAX | PROFESSIONALS NORTH BAUMGARTNER REALTY

Brokerage – independently owned and operated